



Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee

DRAFT Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2008 McCloskey Conference Room 135, City Hall

Technical Advisory Committee minutes are transcribed in a summarized outline manner. Audio recordings are on file with the City of Bloomington Planning Department.

Attendance

Technical Advisory Committee: Toby Turner (Monroe Co. Highway), Perry Maull (IU Campus Bus), Lew May (Bloomington Transit), Jim Ude (INDOT), Laura Haley (Bloomington ITS), Kurt Babcock (Monroe County GIS), Matthew Lepke (Monroe Co. Planning), Jewel Echelbarger (Rural Transit), Tom Micuda (Bloomington Planning), Andrea Roberts (Bloomington Public Works), Adrian Reid (Bloomington Engineering), and Jane Fleig (Bloomington Utilities).

Others: Joyce Williams (Bloomington Engineering), Josh Desmond (MPO Staff), Raymond Hess (MPO Staff), Scott Robinson (MPO Staff), and Jane Weiser (Bloomington Planning Staff).

I. Call to Order

Adrian Reid called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of Minutes:

A. August 22, 2008—Joyce Williams noted that the railroad has not agreed to the crossing although the minutes reported that they had. Tom Micuda moved approval of the corrected minutes. Jane Fleig seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

III. Communications from the Chair

There were none.

IV. Reports from Officers and/or Committees

A. Updates on MPO related projects

Toby Turner reported that the Smith Rd. utility relocation is underway with a bid date in February. The Vernal Pike project is under right-of-way acquisition. The Mt. Tabor Rd., Bridge #33 and Fullerton Pike RFPs have been submitted for review. The County would like to include City Planning in the selection process.

Adrian Reid reported that they have had a public meeting for the Atwater/Henderson project. The Safe Routes to School project on Henderson is in process of acquisition. He reported that Part One of a webinar on context-sensitive designs was presented. Part Two will be on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

Lew May said BT had a 2nd public charrette on their Transit Development Study. Their consultant proposed a radial system, grid system or corridor-based route structure. Park and Ride options were discussed. BT would like to increase their service by 50%. The study should be completed by the end of the year. There was some discussion about Park and Ride details.

V. Reports from the MPO Staff

Raymond Hess presented a federal funding balance sheet. He pointed out the programming amount and the obligations. He asked for feedback. Only \$145,000 (out of \$15,000,000) has been left

unprogrammed. Josh Desmond explained that Federal Highway Administration (FHA) and INDOT have agreed that we are no longer in a “use it or lose it” situation with our funding. We will be able to carry over funds. Both of those agencies operate on a 2-year budget. We will need to make sure that our funding levels are listed very clearly for INDOT. We could be locked out of some funding for 2 years if we aren’t very careful. We have 10 days to work with our local partners and put together one final project list for our TIP for 2009 and anything that we expect to let for FY 2010 and 2011. Transit money is not included in this. Mr. Hess said INDOT is really just looking for which projects need how much money and when they will be let. If a project is right on the cusp, we don’t want to miss the window and have to wait two years.

VI. Old Business

A. Complete Streets

Raymond Hess presented the Complete Streets policy as drafted by the CAC. A good Complete Streets policy should specify that road projects should include all users including bicycles, pedestrians, transit users, motorists and people of all ages and abilities. He provided an overview of the policy and identified several key points. The Policy Committee would certify that each project included in the TIP is compliant with the Complete Streets policy or is exempt from it. The Policy Committee would make their recommendation after input from the CAC and the TAC. The MPO can freeze funds if they decide that the LPA isn’t meeting the Complete Streets policy.

Mr. Micuda asked Mr. Ude if INDOT has started any talks about Complete Streets policy. Mr. Ude was not aware of any. Mr. Reid said that he and Joyce Williams have reviewed the policy and have presented their comments. They felt that there was a need to define different “contexts” throughout Bloomington. They object to the stop work order. The contract is with INDOT not the Policy Committee. Mr. May asked if this policy would apply to transit projects and how. Mr. Hess said that needs to be clarified. The initial intent for this was for STP or road projects. Mr. May wanted that clarified to prevent misunderstanding. Mr. Turner said the County was concerned that this will add layers to the process and further delay projects. Mr. Micuda said they need to come up with another name than “Stop Work Order.” Mr. May noted that stopping projects could add to their cost. Mr. Micuda suggested that they consider setting this up heavily weighted to the design process in terms of outreach and feedback concerning modifications. The Policy Committee could see if there’s a design change. That would free up construction to simply implement the plan. Mr. Hess asked for comments to be forwarded to staff.

VII. New Business

A. Transportation Improvement Program FY 2008-2011 Amendments

a. BT Hybrid Bus Grant

Recommendation Requested

Josh Desmond reported that BT has funds to purchase 4 new 35-foot buses. Lew May has secured additional funds through Senator Lugar to upgrade those diesel buses to hybrids. This will require a TIP amendment. This was given a positive recommendation from the CAC. Lew May moved approval, Perry Maull seconded. The motion was approved unanimously to support this request.

b. Rural Transit Operating and Capital budget adjustments

Recommendation Requested

Josh Desmond reviewed the budget adjustments for Rural Transit. Jewell Echelbarger explained the changes. They are taking out their entire FTA 5311 capital. They dropped their JARC

5316 grant. Tom Micuda moved approval (provided staff can work with RT to get the numbers lined up for Policy Committee), Jane Fleig seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote to support this request.

B. Operational Bylaws Amendment
Recommendation Requested

Raymond Hess explained that recently it was noticed that the bylaws still stated that the TAC and the Policy Committee would still meet jointly on a bi-monthly basis. We have added language stating that these meetings are open to the public. Staff wanted to amend that both the CAC and the TAC could vote electronically if necessary. Language concerning CAC membership and voting procedures was standardized for consistency. There was discussion concerning deadlines for including information in packets. Mr. Micuda asked if they would like to consider lowering the quorum numbers. Jane Fleig thought that changing the meeting date and time might solve the problem of low attendance. Tom Micuda moved approval of the amendment, Jane Fleig seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote to support this request.

C. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Call for Projects / Application Q & A
Raymond Hess noted that the application deadline is Nov. 3, 2008.

VIII. Communications from Committee Members (*non-agenda items*)

A. Topic Suggestions for future agendas

Andrea Roberts asked if they should consider updating the list of committee members. Mr. Hess said this has been discussed by staff. Josh Desmond suggested evaluating this after the new meeting dates take effect.

Upcoming Meetings

- A. Policy Committee – November 14, 2008 at 1:30pm (McCloskey Room)**
- B. Citizens Advisory Committee – November 19, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)**
- C. Technical Advisory Committee – November 21, 2008 at 1:30pm (McCloskey Room)**

Adjournment

These minutes were _____ by the Technical Advisory Committee at their regular meeting held on November 21st, 2008 (SFR).